

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0450
INFO AMCONSUL ADANA
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMCONSUL IZMIR
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USNMR SHAPE
USCINCEUR
USIA WASHDC PRIORITY
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES
USDOCOLANDSOUTHEAST IZMIR

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USIA FOR IOP/M, IBS/PN, IPS/PE, IEU

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TAGS: PEPR,PINR, TU, US
SUBJ: PRESS REPORTS ADDITIONAL DETAILS OF ESPIONAGE CASE

REF: ANKARA 0618(DTG 241151Z JAN 78)

1. SUMMARY: DETAILS OF THE SUPPOSEDLY SECRET INVESTIGATION
OF THE ACTIVITIES OF SABAHATTIN SAVASMAN, FORMER DEPUTY
DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE ORGANIZATION (MIT),
CONTINUE TO SURFACE IN THE TURKISH PRESS. JANUARY 27
HURRIYET REPORTS INFORMATION ALLEGEDLY CONTAINED IN
SAVASMAN CASE DOSSIER INCLUDING MIT'S ALLEGED FAILURE TO
INFORM THE PRIMIN(DEMIREL) OR THE MFA ABOUT THE INVOLVEMENT
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OF AMERICAN DIPLOMAT, WILLIAM PHILLIPS. HURRIYET ALSO
PRINTS WHAT IS PURPORTED TO BE SAVASMAN'S MIT JOB
DESCRIPTION WHICH INCLUDED DUTIES AS MIT LIAISON OFFICER
WITH THE CIA. END SUMMARY.

2. TURKEY'S LARGEST CIRCULATION NEWSPAPER, HURRIYET, REPORTS
ON ITS FRONT PAGE JANUARY 27 DETAILS ALLEGEDLY CONTAINED

IN THE SECRET DOSSIER ON SAVASMAN ESPIONAGE CASE. AMONG HURRIYET'S REVELATIONS ARE:

A. SAVASMAN MET WITH THREE U.S. AND TWO BRITISH DIPLOMATS SEVERAL DAYS BEFORE HIS ARREST AND WAS TO HAVE GIVEN THEM SEVERAL DOCUMENTS. HURRIYET ADDS THAT MILITARY PROSECUTOR HAS DECLARED NAMES OF THE AMERICAN DIPLOMATS A "SECRET".

B. SAVASMAN WAS ARRESTED BY THREE MIT OFFICIALS WHILE MEETING WITH AMERICAN DIPLOMAT, WILLIAM PHILLIPS, IN AN MIT GUEST HOUSE IN A RESIDENTIAL AREA OF ANKARA.

C. SAVASMAN WAS ARRESTED AND JAILED. PHILLIPS, ON THE OTHER HAND, WAS RELEASED BECAUSE OF HIS DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY, AND HE IMMEDIATELY LEFT TURKEY TO RETURN TO THE U.S.

3. THE HURRIYET ARTICLE ALSO ALLEGES THAT THE MIT DID NOT INFORM THE PRIMIN ABOUT THE INVOLVEMENT OF DIPLOMAT PHILLIPS (EVEN THOUGH MIT IS DIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE TO THE PRIMIN). MFA ALSO WAS REPORTEDLY UNABLE TO PREPARE A FILE ON PHILLIPS BECAUSE PRIMIN'S OFFICE HAD PROVIDED NO INFORMATION. HURRIYET ADDS THAT UNNAMED OFFICIALS HAVE EXPRESSED THE OPINION THAT MIT'S FAILURE TO PREPARE A REPORT ON PHILLIPS WAS IRREGULAR.
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4. HURRIYET ALSO REPRODUCES WHAT IT CLAIMS IS A COPY OF SAVASMAN'S JOB DESCRIPTION IN MIT. AMONG SAVASMAN'S OFFICIAL DUTIES AS ENUMERATED IN HIS JOB DESCRIPTION WERE:
--TO EXCHANGE INFORMATION WITH THE CIA,
--TO MAINTAIN CONTACT WITH THE CIA, AND
--TO MEET SEPARATELY WITH INTELLIGENCE ORGANIZATION OFFICIALS OF WESTERN COUNTRIES WHO, IN PARALLEL WITH THE CIA, HAVE INTELLIGENCE LIAISON RELATIONS WITH TURKEY.

5. COMMENT: STORIES OF THE SAVASMAN ARREST, AS DEVELOPED BY INDIVIDUAL PAPERS AND NEWS SERVICES, CONTINUE TO APPEAR WITH SOME REGULARITY. DETAILS OF THIS CASE, WHICH IS SUPPOSED TO BE INVESTIGATED UNDER TIGHT SECURITY REGULATIONS, CONTINUE TO SEEP OUT. IT IS LIKELY THAT DURING SAVASMAN'S TRIAL, WHICH BY LAW MUST BE CONDUCTED IN SECRET, ADDITIONAL DETAILS WILL BE OBTAINED BY REPORTERS. EVEN IF SUBSTANTIAL ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CG NOT UNCOVERED, THE SENSATIONAL CHARACTER OF THE STORY WILL PROBABLY ENSURE EXTENSIVE PRESS COVERAGE, INCLUDING SPECULATIVE ANALYSIS OF US INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES IN TURKEY.
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
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Disposition History: n/a
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